

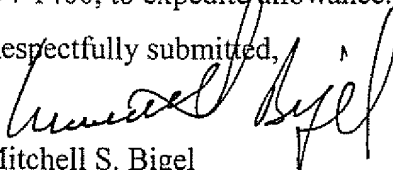
REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the continued thorough examination of the present application that is reflected in the Official Action of June 30, 2006. Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 2-5, 31-33, 42, 43, 61 and 62 are allowed, and that Claims 37, 40, 46-51 and 55-58 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In order to place the present application in condition for allowance, Claims 37, 40, 46-51 and 55-58 have been rewritten in independent form, and the other dependent claims have been amended to depend from these allowable claims.

More specifically, Claim 37 has been rewritten in independent form by incorporating therein the recitations of independent Claim 35, and by canceling Claim 37. Claim 40 has been rewritten in independent form by incorporating the recitations thereof into independent Claim 38 and by canceling Claim 40. Claims 36 and 39 are patentable as depending from amended Claims 35 and 38, respectively, and Claim 45 has been canceled. Claims 46-51 have been rewritten in independent form by incorporating the recitations of independent Claim 44 into Claims 46, 47, 48 and 49. Moreover, Claims 50 and 51 depend from Claim 49, and Claims 52-54 have been amended to depend from Claim 46, so that these claims are also in condition for allowance. Finally, Claims 55-58 have been rewritten in independent form by incorporating the recitations of Claim 44 into Claim 55. Claims 56-58 already depend from Claim 55, so that they are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. Should any informal matters arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone at 919-854-1400, to expedite allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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